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# Major News Releases and Speeches

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# Speeches

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

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**Remarks prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block before the Newspaper Farm Editors of America, Washington, D.C., April 27, 1981**

When I spoke at your fall meeting last year in Champaign, Illinois--I said that if I were appointed Secretary of Agriculture, I would do everything within my power to encourage the lifting of the Soviet grain embargo.

Many things have happened since that fall meeting. There have been a lot of setbacks and a lot of disappointments as we monitored the world situation over the past months.

But that's all behind us now, and I hope you know how happy it makes me to be able to stand here tonight and talk to you about the past embargo.

Please do not misunderstand me. The setbacks and disappointments I refer to were shared equally by President Reagan. The task that he inherited was not one to be envied. Passed on to him was the task of finding a responsible way to rectify an irresponsible action--to effectively end an ineffective embargo.

Some people were worried about what type of signals the President's action would be sending to the rest of the world. Personally, I think the signal is clear. The President's signal is that he has reaffirmed his commitment to the expansion of exports based on principles of uninterrupted trade and freedom from government restrictions. This signal gives a boost to a trend away from government dependency that is already well along.

For example, in 1960 the Commodity Credit Corporation had invested in price support programs an amount of money equivalent to almost one-fourth of farmers' cash receipts from marketings. Compare that to the end of 1980 when the government's investment in price support operations was down to 5 percent.

At the same time, agricultural exports have trended in the opposite direction. In 1960 the value of agricultural exports represented only about 15-percent of farmers' cash receipts. By 1980, however, exports

delivered about 25 percent of farmers' cash receipts from marketings.

These are good trends--but we need more than just trends to get the job done. That's why we have to look forward to the administration's farm bill.

This is important, because I firmly believe that the future of this nation's great agriculture plant depends on the successful passage and implementation of this bill. We can't afford any delays. If our agriculture is going to continue producing for this country and for much of the world, then we have to create an environment that will allow it to function.

I believe the administration's farm bill is designed to do just that. It is designed to reduce the dependence agriculture has on the federal government. It is designed to let agriculture do what it has historically done best--to produce and market its products in an open market environment. And we can do this by effectively reducing the depth that the federal government's fingers have reached into this area of our economy.

The philosophy behind our farm bill is simple. We feel that the federal government's role is not one to create a protective shield for farmers. This only reduces incentive. Instead, the government's role is to assist the farmer as he deals with today's problems.

In some areas we don't have to wait for the passage of the farm bill to work toward accomplishing these goals. Earlier this month, for example, we granted an indefinite extension to loans that were previously called under the farmer-held corn reserve. This action enabled farmers to decide for themselves about when to market their corn. And that's the way it should be.

Tonight I am happy to be able to announce still another action we have taken. Effective with the 1982 crops--including wheat and barley planted this fall--all acreage in this country planted in crops formerly covered under the disaster payments program will be eligible for federal crop insurance. Also, about 95 percent of our soybean acreage will also be eligible.

What we have done is to accelerate our phase-in plans for this important crop insurance. And by making this insurance available nationwide, we have accomplished two things: We have given greater protection for farmers, and we have met our goal of reducing

dependence on the federal purse in this area. We're reaching toward our goal, but we still need our farm bill package if we are to seriously think about finishing the job. And we need the package in the shape that it was presented to Congress.

I'm aware that it will not be easy to get what we want. Old habits are hard to break--especially when it comes to turning off the federal money faucet. But I believe the voters last fall gave government a mandate to do just that. Such a mandate makes compromise difficult, if not unacceptable.

My personal goal is to put agriculture into a position where it will become an effective part of President Reagan's plan for economic recovery.

Some people in this city find it difficult to accept the President's plan. They find it difficult to admit that the government may have failed--that the responsibility for the future should be given back to the people.

These people seem to like tidy little government packages that supposedly take care of everything for everybody with no loose ends. You see, loose ends scare people who have become so accustomed to the power of controls.

On the other hand, it's that aspect of the President's plan that excites me. What some people consider loose ends are actually open ends in his recovery plan. Those open ends extend toward the citizens of this nation to take part in their own recovery.

That's the whole philosophy behind the President's plan. And that's what we're trying to do with the farm bill. As I said--it won't be easy to change old habits. But, I think it's going to work. In fact, there's no question about it. It has to work.

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**Remarks prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block before the Millers' National Federation Convention, Washington, D.C., April 28, 1981**

When President Reagan lifted the embargo of certain farm exports to the Soviet Union, there were those who feared such a move would send a negative signal to the world. But, that wasn't the signal I received from the action.

Quite frankly, it's difficult for me to understand how anyone could ever construe a willingness to trade as something negative. Trade is not negative. In fact, it's time we begin to realize that our ability to trade is one of our super strengths.

It pleases me to be part of an administration that holds this philosophy. The great message I received from President Reagan's action last Friday was that he reaffirmed his commitment to the expansion of exports based on the principles of uninterrupted trade and freedom from government restrictions.

That's the signal I received--and that's the goal towards which we are now going to direct our attention. We've got the best agricultural system in the world--and we're only beginning. We still have a long way to go before we reach our potential. And as our farmers continue to increase their output, we're going to do everything possible to make certain that the markets are available.

One of our first steps will be to enlist federal, state and private organizations in an intensified program to expand our agricultural exports. The government can't, and shouldn't, do this by itself. But, by working together we can sharpen our competitive edge in the promotion and sale of U.S. farm products abroad. We can take advantage of shifting world trade patterns and opportunities--particularly in those developing, OPEC and Eastern Bloc countries. Further, we want to utilize the private sector more than ever in our efforts to counter growing protectionist trends.

This is a problem we will have to deal with. We are living in a world where trade restrictionism is becoming a constant threat. It is because of this that we have to be increasingly watchful so that we can protect our agricultural exports into various markets.



Part of our effort to maintain and expand sales overseas will be the establishment of an early-warning system to alert us to restrictionist actions in other nations. We will be working toward a larger measure of government-industry cooperation as we attempt to identify and deal with these problems.

We would also like to involve our agencies in a cooperative study of non-tariff barriers related to health, environment and other considerations. Part of our plan will be to organize a government-industry effort to review trade policies that are objectionable to us--then devise strategies to deal with those policies. In effect, our desire is to re-establish a U.S. image of strength in trade policy.

Another area receiving serious consideration involves processed agricultural commodities.

Our Foreign Agricultural Service is studying a new program to expand foreign markets for our processed and semi-processed products. This new program will concentrate on the promotion of products that have both a high degree of further processing and a high content of raw agricultural equivalent commodity.

As we see it, this new approach would probably focus primarily on developing countries that have a high per capita income, such as oil-rich countries of the Middle East and a few others. We selected these markets because they have the foreign exchange to pay for processed commodities and, in most cases, lack the necessary capabilities to manufacture the product domestically.

These are just some of the programs that are in the process of being formulated. We have a lot of ideas for the future of agriculture, and they're all important. They're important because they not only affect the future stability of the farmer, but also they affect the stability of the many agri-businesses that are part of our total agricultural system.

Now, I'm not claiming that all of this is going to happen overnight. Some of these plans are not easy to achieve, and I imagine some sectors would like us to move a bit faster in several of these areas. The important thing is that we are moving in the right direction. It shows that we are sincere about our desires to provide for the continued growth in U.S. agricultural exports.

We have to move rapidly with our plans, which makes it essential that we work towards the successful passage and implementation of the

administration's farm bill package. We need this package. If our agriculture is going to continue producing for this country and for much of the world, then we have to create an environment that will allow it to function. The administration's farm bill does just that.

Of course, in some areas we don't have to wait for this passage to implement some of our goals. In fact, just last night I announced an acceleration of our federal crop insurance, a move which will put the program in full effect in 1982. And this includes wheat and barley that will be planted this fall.

In the past, we have been spending billions of dollars around the country in a disaster payments program that has become a disaster in itself. Now farmers will be able to sign up for federal crop insurance on any crops that were formerly covered under the disaster program.

By making this insurance available nationwide, we have accomplished two things: We have given greater protection for farmers and we have met our goal of reducing dependence on the federal purse.

We're reaching towards our goal, but we can't do it alone. We need your help. We need your support. Right now, we just don't have any alternatives.

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**Remarks prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block before the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C., April 29, 1981**

If any of you have ever heard me speak in the past, then you probably have a pretty good idea about how I feel about agriculture in this nation. I don't often pass up the opportunity to brag a little about what our agricultural system has accomplished.

I happen to think that we have the most efficient, most productive system in the world. And those are not just empty words. Consider these facts:

Agricultural output in our nation has increased nearly 70 percent since 1950, while the total input has increased by only 4 percent. It is this performance that has provided people of both this nation and the

world with a low cost, but readily available, high quality food supply.

The economic activity generated by our farm products accounts for a full 20 percent of this nation's gross national product. Because of this activity, 23 million people are employed, making agriculture the nation's biggest employer.

Agriculture is also the largest net contributor to our balance of trade payments. While the U.S. deficit for non-agricultural trade is approaching \$50-billion, agriculture is reaching towards a \$30 billion trade surplus. I said surplus.

Just think about those facts for awhile. Better still, think about how it all came about. I know how it happened. I hope that you do, too.

Agriculture made its greatest strides in our history during the period when farmers had the absolute freedom of choice. They had the freedom to plant what and how much they wanted, and they had the freedom to market when and how they wanted.

That's freedom of commerce--and we all know about that. I doubt whether there is a person sitting in the room that doesn't realize how important it is to maintain this freedom. I think you all realize the hardships that unnecessarily complex and restrictive regulations have caused.

We've certainly seen it in agriculture. Some of our government programs that began with only two or three key features--features like a loan rate and an allotment--have been reshaped over time to include crop set-aside, national program acreages, allocation factors, normal crop acreages, cross-compliance, offsetting-compliance, target prices, loan rates, special loan rates and--if this boggles your mind, then think of the farmer out there who just wants to produce and market his product.

I'm not saying that our farm bill has all of the cures. But, we're sure going to take a crack at correcting a lot of these problems. We have a market-oriented program that can work--and it will work if we can get it through Congress without too many scars.

You know the point I am trying to make. I'm sure that many similar problems are facing your businesses. A government that has become too big and too powerful has left all of us sluggish. I don't like living under those conditions, and I don't think you do either.

That's why we're heading in the direction we are with the farm bill. And that's why the President is heading in the direction he is with his entire economic recovery plan.

We can get the job done--with your help. Last November the people of this nation gave the new administration a mandate to get this country back on its feet. Now we need your support as we work toward that goal. Believe me, we can't even begin to do it without you.

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# News Releases

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## **USDA INCREASES GRADING FEES FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

WASHINGTON, April 24--Effective May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase the grading fees it charges the processed fruit and vegetable industry, a USDA official said today.

"The current fee schedule has been in effect since 1979 and our voluntary grading and inspection service costs have risen significantly since then," said L.L. Gast, acting administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service. "The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 requires that the fees we charge meet the costs of providing the service."

The standard hourly rate charged industry for grading and inspecting processed fruits and vegetables will be raised from \$20.80 to \$22. For year-round in-plant services, the charge will be \$17 per hour, up from \$16. The fee for USDA graders and inspectors assigned to year-round plants on less than a year-round basis will be raised from \$18.50 to \$19. The services of aides will be raised from \$13.50 to \$14 an hour.

The new fee for plants which do not have year-round, in-plant grading services will be \$24 per hour, up from \$23. USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service develops grade standards and provides official grading and inspection for many food products. The new schedule of fees will be published in the April 24 Federal Register.

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## **USDA OFFICIALS RETAIN WATER REQUIREMENT FOR LIVESTOCK AWAITING SLAUGHTER**

WASHINGTON, April 24--Officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture have decided to retain regulations that require drinking water be available for livestock awaiting slaughter.

Two industry petitions had requested exemptions from USDA regulations which require slaughterers to provide drinking water in all



livestock holding pens. The regulations do not apply to areas used primarily as slaughter passageways--such as alleyways and corridors.

L.L. Gast, acting administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service, said USDA asked for public comment on the issue Sept. 12, and of the 636 comments received by Nov. 12, 581 favored the existing regulations and 47 opposed them.

Gast said industry comments generally expressed concerns about the cost and need for providing watering facilities in livestock holding pens, and questioned whether water needed to be available at all times.

Other comments contended that withholding water would be inhumane.

"In evaluating the present livestock water regulations, not only did we analyze public comments, we also did a thorough search of relevant literature," Gast said. "We did not find sufficient evidence to change the present requirements."

Notice of the policy will be published in the April 24 Federal Register. The notice clarifies the intent of the regulations, Gast said. The regulations, which implement the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978, were originally published in the Nov. 30, 1979, Federal Register.

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## **DISASTER CROP ACREAGE TO BE COVERED BY FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE**

WASHINGTON, April 27--Expansion plans for federal crop insurance today were accelerated by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block to include all acreage planted to crops formerly covered under USDA's disaster payments program.

Block said these crops will be eligible for insurance in 1982, beginning with wheat and barley planted this fall. Other crops covered are corn, cotton, grain sorghum and rice.

About 95 percent of the U.S. soybean acreage will be covered, with the remainder becoming eligible after USDA collects yield data, he said.

"By making this insurance available nationwide on disaster crops, we can provide greater protection for farmers and still meet our goal of

reducing dependence on the federal government," Block said.

He said the Reagan administration can now avoid extending the disaster payments program under the omnibus farm bill currently before Congress. That program expires later this year.

Previous federal crop insurance expansion plans would have added 250 counties per year to the program, making the insurance available of 97 percent of the disaster crop acreage in 1982.

Block also announced that USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is preparing an individual yield guarantee program for all disaster crops and soybeans. Farmers able to prove their yields over a given period of years can have the coverage tailored to their own production history. This will be effective with 1982 spring-planted crops, Block said.

However, he said, since individual farm yield data may be limited or unavailable in some areas, FCIS may develop identical rates and coverages involving several counties for the crops to be planted this fall. These coverages would be converted to the individual yield basis the following year, he said.

Under the new insurance program, coverage is readily available in each county since many private agents and companies are writing and delivering the federal insurance, Block said.

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## **CALIFORNIA APPROVED TO RECEIVE STALLIONS FROM CEM-AFFECTED COUNTRIES**

WASHINGTON, April 27--U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have added California to the list of six states approved to receive stallions imported from countries infected with contagious equine metritis.

David Herrick, a staff veterinarian with USDA's animal and plant health inspection service, said a state is authorized to receive stallions from countries affected with the disease only if it has laws or regulations that require post-entry inspection, testing and treatment of the stallions to prevent introduction of the disease.

These rules are in addition to USDA-required testing and inspection in the nation of origin and at the U.S. port of entry animal import center, Herrick said.

Other approved states are Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Contagious equine metritis has been spread by international shipment of infected breeding horses since it was discovered in 1976. The only cases diagnosed in the United States have been in Kentucky and Missouri. Nations considered infected are Australia, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Contagious equine metritis is a highly transmissible venereal disease of horses that infects mares, causing them to fail to conceive. The stallion is a carrier, but can be treated by cleaning and disinfecting the genitals, using specific antibiotics.

Notice of this action is scheduled for publication in the April 30 Federal Register.

Public comments may be sent, by June 29, to the deputy administrator for veterinary services, APHIS, USDA, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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## **USDA INCREASES WHEAT, BARLEY RELEASE AND CALL PRICES**

WASHINGTON, April 28--Wheat and barley reserve release and call prices will be raised effective May 1 as a result of higher loan rates recently announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to a USDA official.

Edward Hews, acting administrator of USDA's agricultural stabilization and conservation service, said grain reserve release and call prices are based on a percentage of the current loan rate for the commodity. This will serve notice that rates do change as of May 1 for the current reserve which provide for release and call levels which are tied to the current national average loan rate. Therefore, raising loan rates also raises release and call prices.



The new prices are as follows:

	RESERVE I		RESERVE II		RESERVE III	
	Release	Call	Release	Call	Release	Call
Wheat	\$4.48	\$5.60	\$4.80	\$5.92	\$4.48	\$5.60
Barley	n/a	n/a	\$2.44	\$2.83	\$2.44	\$2.83

The old prices are as follows:

	RESERVE I		RESERVE II		RESERVE III	
	Release	Call	Release	Call	Release	Call
Wheat	\$4.20	\$5.25	\$4.50	\$5.55	\$4.20	\$5.25
Barley	n/a	n/a	\$2.29	\$2.65	\$2.29	\$2.65

Reserve I reflects grain entered before Jan. 7, 1980. Reserve II commodities are those entered Jan. 8 through Aug. 24, 1980; reserve III contains grain entered after Aug. 24. Barley in reserve I has been called. The administration has proposed legislation which would provide for a reserve with only a trigger release level, and no call.

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## FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND RISES ONLY SLIGHTLY IN 1980

WASHINGTON, April 28--Foreign investors have reported owning less than 1 percent of agricultural land in the United States as of the end of last year, "less than is generally thought by the public," according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

"As of last December, foreign investors reported they owned about 7.8 million acres of U.S. agricultural land. While that figure is up 2.2 million acres from what USDA reported the year before, about 1.8 million of that increase was due to late-filed 1979 reports being included in this year's report," Block said.

"The actual increase during 1980 was about 414,000 acres out of a total U.S. agricultural area of about 1.25 billion acres," Block said.

Block said next year's report could once again contain late-filed reports, thus raising is year's figure. He also said the total acreage of foreign-owned U.S. agricultural land is too small to measure the impact on agriculture at the national level.

Current legislation requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report those holdings to USDA. They also are required to report acquisitions, dispositions, leases and land-use changes.

Foreign owners who fail to report their holdings and acquisitions or who are late in reporting face possible fines. Block said as of last December, USDA has assessed 1,950 penalties for late filings, amounting to about \$250,000.

Block said while the law does provide penalties for late reporting and non-reporting, it does not provide for an investigations office to detect those who choose not to report.

The yearly foreign land ownership study has been sent to the Congress for evaluation, as required by law. Highlights of the report are available from ESS Publications, room 0054-S, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250. Ask for publication ESS-9.

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## **USDA OFFICIALS PROPOSE USING PROLATE TO TREAT TICKS**

WASHINGTON, April 28--The public has until June 29 to comment on a U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal to use an organophosphate insecticide sold under the trade name "Prolate" as a dip for treating livestock infested with ticks.

John Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's animal and plant health inspection service, said the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act requires pesticides be registered for approved uses. It also requires that trials be conducted to determine their effectiveness without injury to the animals.

Atwell said USDA is proposing Prolate be registered by the Environmental Protection Agency as a dip at concentrations of 0.15 to 0.25 percent.

Written comments may be submitted through June 29 to the deputy administrator for veterinary services, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Notice of this proposal is scheduled to be published in the April 28 Federal Register.

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## **GRAIN ELEVATOR TASK FORCE TO REPORT TO SENATE MAY 15**

WASHINGTON, April 28--Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today said his grain elevator task force will report its findings on bankrupt grain elevators to the Senate Judiciary Committee May 15.

"The warehouse bankruptcy problem is complex and has no simple solutions," Block said. "The task force will look at the need for closer auditing, ways to better protect farmer-held grain in commercial elevators and the integrity of warehouse receipts."

Block today named Ray Lett, Block's executive assistant, as permanent chairman of the elevator task force executive committee and Edward Hews, acting administrator of USDA's agricultural stabilization and conservation service, as chairman of the task force's working group.

Block established the grain elevator task force March 5 to find ways to alleviate farmers' problems when a commercial grain elevator goes bankrupt.

Block today named four other men to the elevator task force executive committee. They are: Seeley Lodwick, undersecretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs; William Leshner, assistant secretary of agriculture for economics; C.W. McMillan, assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and transportation services; and James Barnes, office of USDA's general counsel.

The working group will meet with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture's elevator task force, which is chaired by James Boillot, Missouri director of agriculture, May 4 and 5.

Comments on the issue should be sent to: Edward Hews, elevator task force working group, room 202-A, USDA, P.O. Box 2415,

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## USDA RELEASES PRELIMINARY FOOD ASSISTANCE DATA FOR FEBRUARY 1981

WASHINGTON, April 28--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released preliminary estimates of participation in the federal-state food assistance programs for February, 1981, with comparisons to January, 1981, and February, 1980. They are:

	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981
<b>Food Stamp Program:</b>			
People participating (millions) .....	21.2	22.5	22.9
Value of bonus coupons (millions) .....	\$747.0	\$933.1	\$955.4
Average bonus per person.....	\$35.22	\$41.50	\$41.71
<b>Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations:</b>			
Number of projects in operation .....	36	65	65
People participating (thousands) .....	49.3	66.8	66.7
<b>Special Supplemental Food Program:</b>			
People participating (millions) .....	1.803	2.258	2.262
Federal food costs (millions) <sup>a</sup> .....	\$45.5	\$61.4	\$61.5
<b>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</b>			
Number of projects in operation .....	22	21	21
People participating (thousands) .....	103.2	110.9	111.9
<b>National School Lunch Program:</b>			
Number of schools taking part <sup>b</sup> .....	94,327	94,534	94,534
Children participating (millions) .....	26.7	26.5	26.6
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (millions).....	12.1	12.4	12.6
Percentage of lunches served free.....	38.7	39.2	40.1

Percentage of lunches served at reduced price .....	7.0	7.4	7.5
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Feb 1980	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981
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**School Breakfast Program:**

Number of schools taking part <sup>b</sup> .....	32,737	34,553	34,553
Children participating (millions) .....	3.6	3.8	4.0
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price .....	85.0	85.6	86.0

**Child Care Food Program:**

Number of bootlets taking part .....	35,176	44,500	45,200
Children participating (thousands) .....	709.3	742.3	758.7

<sup>a</sup>Due to monthly fluctuations, the federal administrative expenditures are excluded from the program.

<sup>b</sup>These data are collected semi-annually (October and March). Figures For the latest available month (October) are listed.

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## ARKANSAS TURNS MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM OVER TO USDA

WASHINGTON, April 30--Arkansas will turn its meat inspection program over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on June 1, a USDA official said today.

L.L. Gast, acting administrator of USDA's food safety and quality service, said the governor of Arkansas asked USDA to assume responsibility for meat inspection there because Arkansas is unable to continue funding its program.

"Federal law requires USDA to take over a state inspection program if it cannot enforce requirements at least equal to those of a federal program," Gast said. "These actions most often result from voluntary decisions by a state, usually for financial reasons."

Gast said the transfer to federal inspection will mean the 103 meat plants now under state inspection in Arkansas will have to apply for



federal inspection by June 1n

An additional 69 meat plants operating under various exemptions will be surveyed to determine if they should come under federal inspection requirements, he said.

USDA is working closely with Arkansas officials to ensure a smooth transition, Gast said.

Arkansas will be the 20th state to give up its meat inspection program. The state's poultry inspection program was designated for federal inspection in January 1971.

Notice of this action will be published in the May 1 Federal Register.

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## **USDA TO PERMIT BACON MANUFACTURERS TO USE FASTER NITROSAMINE TEST**

WASHINGTON, April 30--Bacon manufacturers may now use a faster technique in their official tests for nitrosamines, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

"A study done by USDA's food safety and quality service and private laboratories has shown the new procedure to be as effective and less costly than the current method," said L. L. Gast, acting administrator of the agency.

Previously, USDA required manufacturers to use a two-trap method to separate nitrosamines from cooked bacon samples before analysis in the Thermal Energy Analyzer. The agency now will allow manufacturers to use either a one-trap or the two-trap method. However, Gast said, USDA analysts will use the one-trap method.

Descriptions of both methods are available from chemistry division, Science Program, Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

Notice of this change will appear in the May 1 Federal Register.

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## USDA TO HELP HAITI ERADICATE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

WASHINGTON, April 30--The U.S. Department of Agriculture will help Haiti eradicate African swine fever with funds and technical assistance, a USDA official said today. The technical assistance will include training and a small number of personnel.

Canada and Mexico also are expected to help in the effort, said Harry C. Mussman, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The multi-national program to eradicate the disease from Haiti will be operated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, which is associated with the Organization of American States and sponsored by 26 western hemisphere countries.

After eradication of the disease, the organization will work closely with Haitian officials to reestablish a domestic hog industry--free of African swine fever and other swine diseases.

African swine fever first invaded the western hemisphere in 1971. That outbreak, in Cuba, resulted in a half-million hogs being destroyed, Mussman said. The disease was confirmed in the Dominican Republic and Brazil in 1978 and Haiti in 1979.

The Dominican Republic elected to slaughter its entire swine population to eliminate the disease, Mussman said. The slaughter program ended in September 1980, and, after a surveillance period, that country is now restocking with new pigs.

Earlier this year, USDA declared an animal health emergency because of the disease in Haiti. This permitted USDA to take measures to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus disease and released funds for its eradication abroad. The United States, Canada, Mexico and the international organization developed the eradication project after the Haitian government asked for help.

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